

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
PA-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 ISO-00 /070 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SMCCALL:EJQ
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/P:WGEHRON
PA/PR:KBROWN
S/S-0:LFLEISCHER
S/MS:CKAMMAN

-----112845 122101Z /20

O 122032Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 175863 TOSEC 080037

SECRETARY FOR SHULMAN AND SHINN FROM EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF DAILY NEWS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, JULY
12, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXTRACTS FROM JULY 12 PRESS BRIEFING

Q. TOM, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE REPORTED DISPUTE
BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON
THE SALE OF OIL DRILLING RIGS TO THE SOVIET UNION--AND
COMPUTERS?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH ON THAT.

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LET ME SAY I JUST SAW A STATUTE HERE THIS MORNING, SECTION
7-C OF THE EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1969, WHICH I THINK PRO-
HIBITS ME FROM TALKING ABOUT SPECIFIC CASES. HOWEVER, THERE
ARE A NUMBER OF OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION. NO DECISION
HAS YET BEEN REACHED ON THOSE TWO CASES WHICH I WAS ASKED
ABOUT YESTERDAY.

Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHAT DOES A NUMBER OF OPTIONS MEAN?
NUMBER OF OPTIONS TO SELL OR NOT SELL?

A. A NUMBER OF OPTIONS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION HAVING TO

DO WITH THE AREA OF OUR COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION.
THESE PARTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP, AS HAS BEEN INDICATED, ARE
UNDER REVIEW NOW, AND WE ARE SIMPLY NOT GOING TO GET INTO
THE DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC OPTIONS.

Q. CAN YOU GO INTO MORE DETAIL THOUGH? WAS A FORMAL STUDY
ORDERED? CAN YOU TELL US WHEN IT WAS ORDERED, AND WHO WAS
CARRYING IT OUT?

A. I DON'T KNOW HOW FORMAL IT IS. I WOULD BE GLAD TO
TAKE THAT QUESTION AND SEE THE DEGREE OF FORMALITY AND, IF
IT WAS BEGUN ON A SPECIFIC DATE, WHEN IT WAS BEGUN.

Q. WHO IS CARRYING IT OUT?

A. AND WHO IS CARRYING IT OUT, YES.

Q. IS IT BEING CARRIED OUT BY A COORDINATING COMMITTEE
OF WHICH MR. VEST IS CHAIRMAN AND MR. SHULMAN IS ADVISOR?

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A. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. TOM, WHAT DOES UNDER REVIEW MEAN? DOES THAT MEAN
THAT THERE WAS A DECISION TO SELL AND THE SALE IS BEING
RECONSIDERED? WHAT IS UNDER REVIEW? CAN YOU PLEASE BE A
BIT MORE SPECIFIC?

A. I AM SAYING THAT A NUMBER OF OPTIONS ARE UNDER REVIEW.
IN THE TWO SPECIFIC CASES, WHICH I WAS ASKED ABOUT YESTER-
DAY AND WHICH YOU ARE ASKING ABOUT AGAIN THIS MORNING, NO
DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER THAT WILL GO FORWARD
OR NOT.

Q. TOM, AT WHAT LEVEL HAS NO DECISION BEEN MADE? HAVE YOU
NOT DECIDED WHAT RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE, OR IS YOUR
RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE PRESIDENT NOT DECIDED? WHERE
DOES IT STAND?

A. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE HAS
NOT YET MADE A DECISION. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET
INTO THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN
MADE FROM THIS BUILDING.

Q. DO THESE OPTIONS GO BEYOND TRADE AND EXTEND INTO OTHER AREAS?

-

A. YES.

Q. THIS INCLUDES TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY? DOES IT INCLUDE CULTURAL EXCHANGES AS WELL, THE WHOLE FABRIC OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER POWERS, EXCLUDING SALT? IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE TELLING US?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO BE TOO DETAILED WITH YOU, BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS WHICH YOU ARE AWARE OF IN UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH WE AND THE SOVIET UNION COOPERATE. THOSE ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP ARE UNDER REVIEW.

Q. IS MBFR SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. TOM, ALSO ON THE SOVIET UNION, HAS THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISED THE EMBASSY AT ANY POINT IN THE COURSE OF THE SHCHARANSKIY OR GINSBURG TRIALS AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON, OR ARE YOU RELYING ON PRESS ACCOUNTS AND RELATIVES' REPORTS?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. ALSO ON THE SOVIET UNION, THE ABC TELEVISION NEWS REPORTED LAST NIGHT THAT THE SOVIET UNION THREATENED TO NAME ANOTHER AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY LAST YEAR FOR ESPIONAGE. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. NO.

Q. WAS AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT EXPELLED FROM THE SOVIET UNION LAST YEAR?

A. THAT'S TOO GENERAL A QUESTION FOR ME TO ANSWER, I'M AFRAID.

Q. WELL, IT'S THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND I'M TALKING ABOUT A DIPLOMAT AT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY ON CHAIKOVSKOGO RING.

A. YES, I UNDERSTAND. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.
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CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, PETROLEUM, POLICIES, SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE175863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMCCALL:EJQ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780286-0132
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780768/aaaacezf.tel
Line Count: 177
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ed57e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2031461
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSCRIPT OF DAILY NEWS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1978 FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXTRACTS FROM JULY 12 PRES
TAGS: SOPN, UR, US
To: SECRETARY MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ed57e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014